

(66)

A few notes of the
voyage of the whaling
bark H. Oratio of New
Bedford from July
4th to Sept. 9th

Arthur S. Heller

1
On board the Bark
Hovativ
Port Clarence July 4, '91
The morning opened
with fine weather.
At five o'clock all the
colors were set at Rig
all hands were called.
Breakfast at seven.
after that one boat and
crew went to the tender
to get our potatoes, the
rest broke out the ^{new} fore
topgallant sail and
fore topmast staysails
and bent them about
ten o'clock the larboard
fire broke out on the bank
James Allen the boats
from all the ships among
them for larboard boat
lowered and went to
help put it out. Two

8
Steamers and half a dozen force pumps were pouring streams of water into her and continued to do so until she was nearly sunk and the fire put out, then they commenced to pump her out which they finished doing at five o'clock Sunday morning. I was aboard working for about eleven hours. I can't imagine the look of the deck ropes cut. holes in the deck dirt smoke and water all over them.

The cabin broken into and every thing stolen, or broken. All the rum was dumped overboard at the commencement

so there was no drunkenness.

Sunday July 25th
 The morning was rather
 hazy. One watch out
 aboard the B. A. help-
 ing straighten her out
 and the other turned
 in. About noon the
 U.S. Cutter Osage came
 in and anchored. She
 is up here to protect the
 whalers and see that
 no rum is sold to the
 natives. Monday the 26th
 We turned out at six
 had to break ast at seven
 and as soon as we had
 finished commenced get-
 ting under way we got
 out of the harbor about
 noon and struck a
 calm and anchored

between Kings Island
and Port of Larenice. But
express vessels are now leaving
the harbor eighteen standing
to day among them the
steamer beamie.

Tuesday the 7th
We are still laying at
anchor at this time 3 P.M.
but will start as soon
as there is a breeze. We
bore anchor about five
P.M. and started with
a good breeze and five
other vessels with us.

Wednesday
A fine breeze all day
and by night we had
left all the vessels out
of sight astern of us.

Thursday, 9th
The breeze is still fresh
and we are moving
very fast.

We left St Lawrence Is.
out of sight this
morning between
three and four o'clock
land we sight I expect
will be St Matthew
Is. The days are begin-
ning to shorten and we
will soon begin to have
night. Friday 10th

Foggy with a strong
breeze all day. We rea-
ched the right whale
grounds to day and
gammed the steam
whaler Beluga and
got the news of the
right whale fleet. In the
morning we sighted a
lot of finbacks.

Saturday 10th
Foggy with a strong
breeze nothing going on.

Sunday 12th
Foggy with a strong
breeze, lighted up about
noon and the sun came
out for a little while but
soon shut in again.

Towards night lighted
a bark off our lee beam
but did not go near
enough to tell what she
was.

Monday 13th
Blowing a gale with
fog and rain. began
moderating about noon
We were under lower
topsails but have now
set the fore sail and began
to go ahead. The old man
is very anxious to sight
a whale and so am I
but do not much like
the idea of lowering in
this kind of weather.

Tuesday, 1st ~~of~~ ^{the}

Last night it breezed and blew almost a hurricane accompanied with a cold rain and fog.

We shortened sail down to maintopsail and

staysail and hove to

I think it was about the most disagreeable night we have had since leaving New P.

This morning it moderated and by night it was a dead calm with a bad sea rolling us about in all shapes.

n We put a line over and tried to catch a codfish

but did not get a bite.

We see few seals nearly every day but it is against the law to catch them.

Wednesday 15th

A light breeze and
the fog horns going.
The starboard watch
are breaking out water
cugan, molasses, vineg-
ar, beef and pork while
the port watch the one
that I am in is below
until twelve o'clock.

Thursday 16th

Foggy, raining and a
light breeze. I sighted
the steamer *Freese*
Freemair trying to start
two whales making
seven for her. In the
afternoon sighted the
Bank. Sydia with
two and a half whales
gannet her and
found the best crowd
of fellows forward of
my ship yet.

Friday 18th 9³

Foggy rainy and a fair breeze. In the morning spoke the steamer Peluga with no whales there. Examined the sydia all day.

Saturday 19th

Foggy, rainy and a very strong breeze.

Examined the N.B. bark Josephine with three hundred barrels sperm oil. In the

afternoon we sighted the brig Francis Dartmouth with all a oil set chasing whales.

Sunday 18th

Before breakfast we sighted a dead whale called by whalers

"A stinker" and indeed
it is just what they are.
After breakfast we got
him along side and
hoisted the head in
a hurry as there were
four vessels bearing down
on us any of which might
have claimed it. We did not have it
before they got there.
It fell a flat calm so
that we were all night.
We got the head in
before dinner and were
all cleaned up before
supper. The mate cal-
culated that it was a de-
er about one thousand
pounds of bone. We did
not bother with the blow-
flies. Monday 29th
Fair & fine morning & we

sighted three banks one
of which had her boats
down after whales and
just then the man came
out from mast head "blow
blow" a right whale on
the lee beam. We then
lowered three boats and
after two or three hours
broke the mates boat
that Sam in struck
after we had but a cou-
ple of bombs into him the
other boats came up and
put some into him
After we had killed
him the ship came
down and picked us
up and we commenced
heaving in got the
head on deck before night
60
Finished heaving

in the blubber to day.
It is expected to make
one hundred and twenty
five bbls. of oil and twelve
hundred pounds of bone
and are very tired to night
having had forty hours
hard work and eight
hours sleep in the last
forty eight. We will
commence trying out
in the morning.

Wednesday 22nd
We had the try work
going full blast all
day. I sighted two
sails. chasing whales
Hoggy as gentle.

Thursday 23rd
Have got the works
well heat up and are
running the oil out
pretty fast. In the

afternoon we sighted a
right whale about a
half mile off and low-
ered stree boats but
before we struck him it
came in so thick that
we could not see the ship
so had to let the whale go
and find the ship.

Friday 23rd

Before breakfast we sight-
ed a right whale about
a quarter of a mile ahead
of the ship and lowered
two boats. When my boat
got within a boat's length
of him he turned
flukes and went down
and when he came
up again he was out
sight in the fog.
We commenced stow-
ing down oil after

and got one hundred and
then down before night.
We finished trying out
about nine o'clock in the
evening.

Saturday 25th

We finished stowing the
oil about noon. The
whale making us one
hundred and eighty seven
barrels. In the after-
noon we ganned the
bk. powder in the which
left Port at the same
time we did. She had
caught a cow and calf
making her twelve or
thirteen hundred of bone
and one hundred and
forty barrels of oil. Wind light
and foggy all day.

Sunday 26th

Thick fog and no wind
all the morning, clear for a

about two or three hours
in the afternoon. at night
it was so thick we
could not see the length
of the ship. Nothing to
do all day but work
the ship. nearly all
took the opportunity to
wash their oily clothes.
the ship looked by mes-
sage as if a laundry had
been started on her.

Monday 27th
Very light wind and
thick fog all day. have
seen nothing whatever
to day. The mate is
feeling pretty good to day
as he has let me loaf
all day.

Tuesday 28th
Very light wind and
fog in the forenoon

we sighted something
in the fog that we were
in hope was a steamer
but on running down
it found it was nothing
but an empty barrel.

Wednesday 29th
Foggy and dead calm
In the morning we
heated a lot of water
and commenced wash-
ing the bone we got from
the steamer and finished
about seven in the
evening. The fog lifted
for a little while and
we sighted to: Cochrane
with one forty three eight
whale, two other boats
and the steamer, Har-
low. We gannetted the
latter and found her
just from Casco? 2 h. 30

13

where she had been
cooking. She has caught
nothing whatever yet
and is the only steamer
that is clean.

Thursday 30th
Light wind foggy and
rolling. One steamer
one bark and plenty
of firebarks in sight.

Friday 31st
Foggy and very light
wind. In the afternoon
commenced breezing on
and raining and before
the watch I was over
board. Sail shortened
down to lower topsails
and storm staysails.

August

Saturday 1st
Rain and fog the wind
moderating and sea
was again.

On the evening we
sighted a steamer and
on her running down
to us we thought her
to be the Belvedere
with nine whales. The
capt. and Taylor Morse
came aboard. Morse
called me aft and
had quite a talk with
me about home.

Sunday 2^d
We lay to with the
Belvedere and in the
morning set sail and
started in company
with her for St. Matthew
I.C. On the evening we
came together, and
our capt. went aboard
the steamer.

Monday 3^d
We lay to together.

all night and started
again in the morning
the breeze was light
and the steamer got
up steam and soon
left us out of sight

Tuesday 4th
It is getting better weather
every day as we get
north but half the
day being foggy. It is
growing cooler every
day now. In the
afternoon we sighted
and landed the
whaler Bane. Capt
Capt Kelly with two
whales.

Wednesday 5th
Lay to with the scho.
and in the morning
I went aboard and
stayed all day

and came across a
boat steerer that had
been shipmates with
a number of Matta boys.

Thursday 6th

To day is my birth
day and I hope I
will not be aboard
one of this style ships
to celebrate my next
one. We parted company
with the schooner and
kept off for Port Bl-
aney and on for St.
Matthews which we
sighted about four o-
clock.

Friday 7th

We ran close in to
the Island and sighted
Pelican Is. and then
stood off. About noon
a bark appeared to be

the Quindecim passed
us carrying all possible
cargo. In the afternoon
we sighted the bark
Boulding Pillow cutting
in two whales. She
sent a boat aboard
of us afternoon some
dressed boards to mend
of her bats that had
been stove.

Saturday 8th
West main away
and squared yards for
the Arctic with a
light fair wind.

Sunday 9th Monday 10th
Tuesday 11th Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th Friday 14th
We have been all a sick
hardly touching a sheet
or brace.

Saturday 15th

This morning in a thick fog we could have run ashore if it had not been for the natives hallooing on the beach of King George Sound at the mouth of Schermers Strait. A number of them came off in their kayak like canoes with a hole just large enough for one to sit in. The third mate brought a little puppy and it has begun to be a pet for all hands here and it

Sunday 6th

We made Cape Prince of Wales in the afternoon and sent a boat ashore of which I made one of the crew and shipped four natives. I had a thing to see the huts which have been wanting

28

to do ever since we have
been amongst the natives.
The winter houses are
nearly all underground
space of them going
down two stories instead
of as with us. There
are two school teachers
hired by the govt. who
stayed here all winter.
They have quite a nice
house. After getting the
natives aboard we set
all sail and in a couple
of hours had passed Little
and Big Horns Is.
and were in the Arch.

Monday 17th

This morning the capt.
had the slop chest broke
out and gave the men
a change of clothes they
much preferred to the old.

and put on every stitch
and then came on deck
feeling as big as anyone
possibly could. We have
got a very strong head
wind and are making
very little headway.

Tuesday 18th
The wind still continues
ahead and is blowing
very strong.

Wednesday 19th
No shift of wind yet nor
does it lighten any.
If it continues this day
we will not get to the
ice in a month.

Thursday 20th
This morning when I went
to mast head at three o'clock
I raised Point Hope fifty
miles away we soon went
out of sight of it and

raised it again in the afternoon and it has been in sight ever since steadily coming nearer and nearer.

Friday 31st

The wind still continues about the same and we gain very little on the land.

Saturday 1st

We are just about holding our own today.

Sunday 2nd

The wind light and foggy early in the morning and then continued breezing until it was blowing a gale dead aft. About eleven we sighted Cape Liebo and kept on for Point Barrow.

Monday 3rd

Continued to have

low snow and
fought three barbs and
two brigs gannet the
bank Reinger and brig
Francis Garston and
Alexander Lamb from
them that the ice was
400 thick that no vessels
could get to Point Barrow
this season and that
thirty whales had been
caught there from the
shore all of which bone
will have to stay there.
and also that the fleet
were all anchored at
Belcher and that out
of the fleet that left Port
Laurence right in the
ice had done the best.

Tuesday 5th
a little more ice
a little more ice and some

27

out again. Found it
the heaviest we had
seen yet. The rigging
hoze up for the first time
this fall.

Wednesday 26th

To day is beautiful so
warm that you can
sit around the decks
and be very comfortable
to morrow it will probab
ly be so cold that you
will be freezing walking
about. This afternoon we
sighted seven barks and
one schooner and the
old man will have a
great time gambling
when we get to them.
One of the officers told
me that this old man
would take me with
him next year to steer
a boat

Thursday 27th
A fine day and very light
breeze ran along the edge
of the ice and jammed
the bark Triton and
Tamerlane.

Friday 28th
Eleven sails in sight
jammed the bark
under Heiles this all
day.

Saturday 29th
This morning it blew a
gale and when it let
up we found ourselves
within seven miles of
Blossoms Shoal with
the wind and tide
setting us onto it. We
immediately set sail
and commenced working
off.
Sunday 30th
We all had a fine dinner

with a light breeze work-
ing away from the shoals
estimated one would be
ahead and then another
none of us making much
headway. Saw quite a
number of walrus.

Mon & Monday 31st

This morning we struck
a leading wind pup
along the ice. We had
six sail ahead of us and
immediately began
going on them and
by twelve o'clock at night
had passed them all.

September

Tuesday 1st

Today it is blowing a
gale and so cold that
I suffer greatly from it.
The boat as a draft of water
comes aboard the stern

ice. The bow is completely
encased in a white
coat.

Wednesday 3d
The gale is blown out.
We got into the ice and
the old man was so
soured that he did
not eat anything in
all day but I drank a
good deal. We ran out
at about two P.M. and
got into clear water
again. We saw a Polar
bear on the ice but
did not bother him.

Thursday 3d
It is a fine day with a
light breeze. We ran throu-
gh a lot of scattering ice
It commenced blow-
ing a gale and we aban-
doned down to lower water.

to the air. during the night
it blew the hardest it
has since leaving home.

Friday 14th

The gale still continues
with the addition of
snow and rain.

Saturday 15th

It has begun to moderate
and we commenced
to put on sail. I stood in
and made the ice and
then worked along the
wedge.

Sunday 16th

Very light breeze and
snow squalls. Sighted
juno sails about 2 hrs.
day all night in a calm.

Monday 17th

A fine day with light
breeze. Sailed at 10
o'clock.

Abram Parker all
three skippers got nearly
burstly drunk. He had
ten men in the forecastle
besides ours and had a
long time singing and
whimpering yarning the
portuguese on our side
called ~~by~~ us Liberty Hall
and the white on the
other.

Tuesday 8th
Another fine day and
light breeze in the after-
noon gained the
rounding billow and
Abram Parker. Learned
that two bowheads and a
calf had been seen.
Wednesday 9th

33

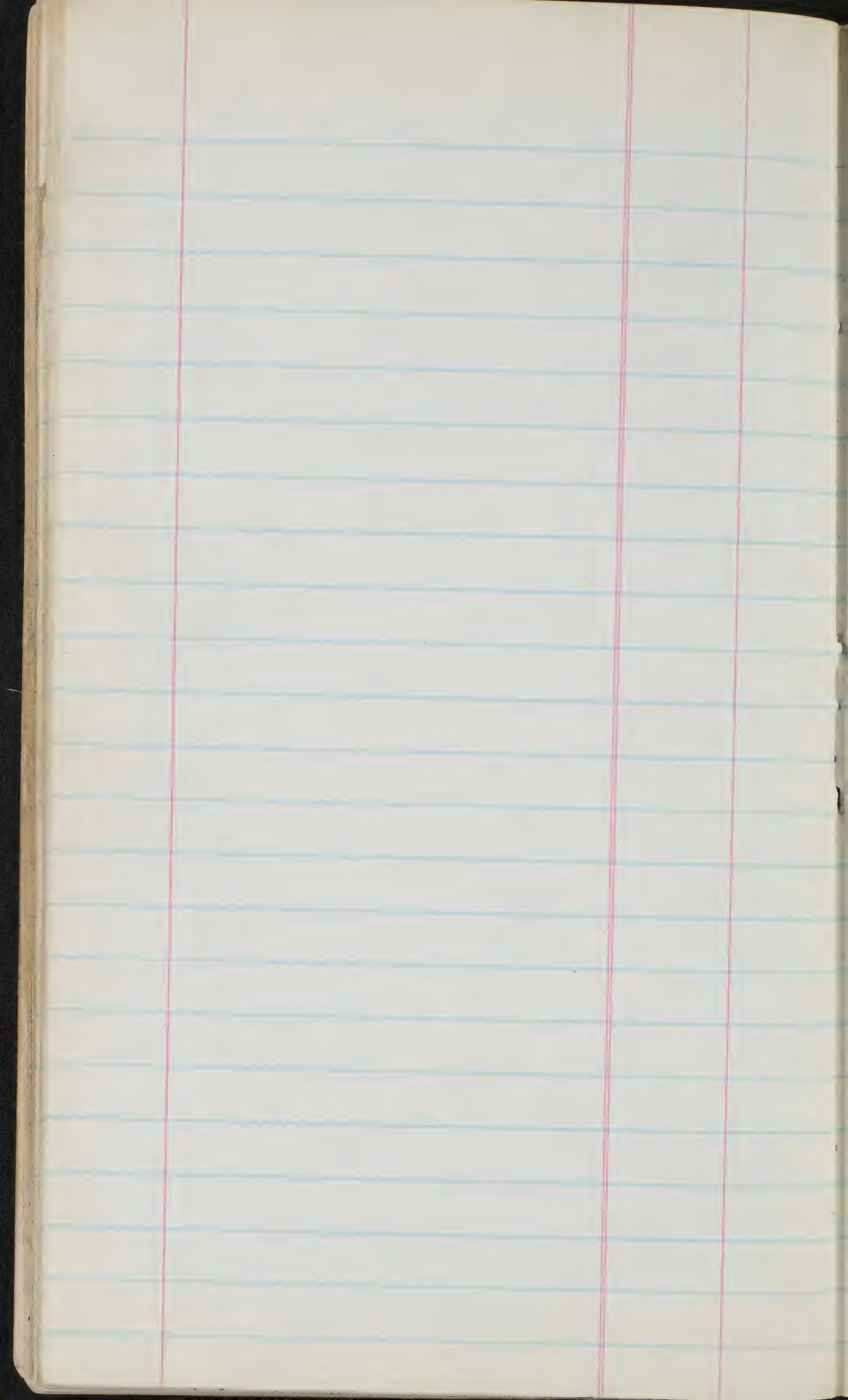


Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a title or date, written in cursive script.



The number
 of
 the
 of the





E.L.

Miss Bond

8 Holyoke Place
Cambridge Mass

Fred B. Jewing
193 Pleasant St.
Worcester
Mass.

William Maple
103 Main St.
Worcester
Mass.

Amster Mason
218 Baltic St
Leith
Scotland

William Murphy
108 Silver St.

Boston, Mass.

Address of some of my
companions during the
voyage

